

Division of Forestry Annual Report for 2009

These brief summaries of accomplishments are divided into program areas. They appear in the following order:

State Forests
State Nurseries
Community & Urban Forestry
Education
Fire
Licensed Timber Buyers / Best
Management Practices
Private Forestland Assistance

State Forest Accomplishments

1. **Forest Restoration Projects**: Over 1,000 acres of forest restoration work was completed the last half of 2009. This work included forest thinning, invasive species control, salvage work, trail and road projects.
2. **Forest Conservation Acquisitions**: 3,461 acres of forests and conservation lands were acquired with significant contributions and partnerships through the federal Forest Legacy Program, contributions from The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, Heritage Trust, and State Forest timber sale revenues.
3. **Forest 'Green' Certification**: The 150,000+ acre Indiana State Forest system has been certified by both the Sustainable Forest Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council since 2007. To maintain certification, we successfully completed annual audits for both systems. This allows wood products harvested from the State Forest system to participate in the global market of 'green certified' wood products.
4. **Forest economy**: The Division of Forestry expanded its Chain-of-Custody group to 38 members (companies). This program allows small Indiana wood and forest product businesses to participate in the certified wood economies at low costs. Chain-of-custody is the process that reassures consumers that the products they buy that are labeled as "green" certified are actually grown and manufactured under controlled processes.



5. **State Forest certified wood products**: Under rigid management and harvesting criteria the Division of forestry sold 2.1 million board feet of 'green' certified wood with gross revenue of \$335,972. Fifteen percent of proceeds are allocated to county governments to help support their Volunteer Fire Departments. Annual timber growth on the State Forest system is 24 million board feet.
6. **State Forest YHCC**: The Young Hoosiers Conservation Corp provided much needed labor and staffing during the summer and early fall recreation season. They helped fill a void created by temporary state funding reductions. In total they work on over 110 forest projects including conservation tree plantings, recreation trails, building and fire tower rehabilitation, forest improvement projects, guest services and more.
7. **State Forest Recreation**: The primary State Forest Camping Season concluded in mid October with a steady stream of outdoor enthusiast and hunters enjoying early winter camping in November. Camping receipts during this was over \$299,000 with 80% of the income coming from Deam Lake and Starve Hollow Lake State Forest Recreation Areas which have Class A or higher facilities.
8. **Environmental Assessment**: The first-ever environmental assessment was completed for the state forest system and submitted to IDEM.

State Nurseries Accomplishments

1. **Fall Seed Crop**: Purchased and collected 9,297,726 tree/shrub seed for sowing of 2011 seedling production.
2. **Nursery YHCC Program**: Employed 28 – 30 YHCC participants accomplishing a wide range of needed work at both nursery facilities
3. **Spring, 2009 Seedling Sales**: There were 3.5 million seedlings sold which generated revenue of \$1.2 million. These seedlings reforested approximately 6,000 acres.
4. **2010 Seedling Stock Program**: Inventoried and made available for sale 3.6 million seedlings from 50 different species and age classes.
5. **Seedlings Processed**: Lifted, processed and packaged 1.25 million seedlings for shipment this spring. Seedlings are made available for pickup at either nursery.

Community & Urban Forestry Accomplishments

1. **Inventory Work**: The Sample Urban Statewide Inventory data collection and analysis was completed. This federally funded project netted urban forestry ecological and economic information for 23 cities and towns in all size classes. From that data, we were able to extrapolate information for the statewide ecological and economic state of Indiana's urban forest.

2. **Non Profit Grants**: CUF was invited to apply for the ALCOA Foundation grant. We were awarded an \$80,000 from the ALCOA Foundation to pass through as grant projects to Indiana municipalities and non profits. The invitation was based on CUF's excellent carry through and reporting to the foundation from a 2006 ALCOA grant. This grant enabled us to fund 14 tree planting projects for 832 trees.
3. **Federal Grants**: CUF also funded 19 municipal and non profit projects totaling \$143,550. This federally funded project will result in 11 street tree inventories, and 4 working trees planting projects, 3 storm plans, and the design, printing, and distribution of the 2010 Indiana Big Tree Register.

Educational Accomplishments

1. **Statewide Environmental Education Needs Assessment of Formal Educators**: In preparation for developing environmental literacy standards for Indiana, a statewide needs assessment of formal educators was conducted. Responses from more than 900 educators were analyzed and a paper prepared and submitted to the Journal of Environmental Education.
2. **International Project Learning Tree Conference**: We hosted more than 150 Project Learning Tree coordinators from throughout the United States, Japan and Mexico for a 4 day conference.
3. **Project Learning Tree educator workshops**: A total of 47 Project Learning Tree workshops were conducted for educators throughout Indiana, training 725 educators. There were also 2 new workshop facilitators trained.
4. **Indiana Demonstration Forest Program**: In 2009 there were 11 forestry field days conducted on 9 Demonstration Forest properties. These events were attended by approximately 240 people.

Fire Program Accomplishments

1. **Prescribed Fire Program**: Fire Headquarters personnel were able to conduct or provide assistance on 575 acres of prescribed fire which is a 260% increase over the same time period in 2008. Fall fire season is typically dominated by suppression activity and initial attack by FHQ staff.
2. **Federal Equipment Disposal Program**: Fire Headquarters staff completed 28 disposals of Federal Excess Property for a disposal value of \$13,902.00.
3. **Equipment Inspection Program**: Completed 94 federally mandated fire department equipment inspections with a federal intern at very minimal cost to the State. The federal government directly paid wages, travel and per diem.

Licensed Timber Buyer and Best Management Program Accomplishments

1. **Timber Buyer Licensing Program**: Renewed 256 Timber Buyer Licenses and issued 21 new licenses. We have renewed 554 Agent Licenses, issued 40 new Agent Licenses and collected \$38,780.00 in licensing fees.
2. **Best Management Practices Program**: Monitored 75 timber harvests on both private and public forest lands for compliance to accepted best management practices.

Private Forest Land Assistance Accomplishments

1. **Classified Forest Program**: Added nearly 20,000 new acres in the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program.
2. **Forest Legacy Program**: Completed two Forest Legacy tract purchases in Brown County: Mt. Tea Ridge, 490 acres, fee purchase (addition to Yellowwood State Forest) ; Wallow Hollow, 128 acres, conservation easement
3. **Private Land Cost Share Assistance Program**: Field reviewed 34 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) projects and cost shared \$41,200 on 22 forest improvement projects on private lands.
4. **Land Owner Assistance**: Assisted 1,125 landowners, wrote 650 management plans covering 34,200 acres, completed 406 (21, 225 acres) of Classified Forest & Wildlands 5-year reinspections and conducted 245 outreach activities resulting in 4,100 contact hours.
5. **Gypsy Moth Program**: Pulled 11,170 gypsy moth traps and caught 45,941 moths, 6,600 fewer than last year. Identified six areas to be treated in 2010. Three year average spread rate is 6.8 miles, within the STS program's objective of 8.5 miles